

HERITAGE AREA BULLETIN BOARD NOVEMBER 2003

The Bulletin is still running a little behind (again) to catch up on all the November legislative news and to make time for Thanksgiving. The many heritage area sessions at the recent Joint Ventures in Stewardship Conference in Los Angeles (November 18-20) were well attended and well received. Many conferees also stopped by the Alliance of National Heritage Area's booth to pick up publications and brochures. The booth featured preview information on the next International Heritage Development Conference to be held in Nashville, Tennessee June 5-8, 2005.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

A number of heritage area bills are continuing their progress through the system. On Tuesday, November 18, the House passed under suspension of the rules H.R. 280 (Hobson-Ohio) to establish certain National Heritage Areas and for other purposes. This bill incorporated the designation of the National Aviation Heritage Area, the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area, the Upper Housatonic Heritage Area, the Oil Region National Heritage Area and authorized the study of the St. Croix National Heritage Area. This bill also included the Steel Industry National Historic Site and authorized a study incorporating the Wright Company factory as a unit of the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park.

The Blue Ridge National Heritage Area was created on November 10, 2003 with the signing of the FY 2004 Appropriations bill. The new heritage area is moving quickly to create a new management entity to lead the heritage area planning for the region.

In other legislative action, S. 1941 was introduced by Richard Durbin (D-IL) to establish the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area. The list of heritage areas bills from the 107th and the 108th Congress are attached as a reference.



107 and 108 Congress Heritage bills introduce

Secretary Gale Norton Visits the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor

On November 13, Secretary Gale Norton visited the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. She took a brief tour of Slater Mill in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, and then met with Director Michael Creasey and members of the corridor's board across the street at the Blackstone Valley Visitor Center. The corridor's partners, business leaders, rangers and docents were there to welcome the Secretary. Norton was impressed with the partnership and the innovation she saw and touted the Blackstone as "an important example for everyone in the country." This was a particularly significant visit as the Department of Interior is drafting legislation defining the future role of national heritage areas as part of the National Park Service. For more information, contact Michael Creasey, 401-7620250, michael_creasey@nps.gov.

JOINT VENTURES CONFERENCE

For those who were unable to attend the Conference in Los Angeles or for those who were there, but could not be three places at once, you can visit the conference on the web. The conference web site has information on conference sessions and clips from the plenary session speakers, go to **www.partnership2003.org**. David Rockefeller's speech on partnership was particularly noteworthy and is attached.



Rockefeller Speech 11-18-03.d

ON THE ROAD

Just by chance your editor is going south in December, visiting the Augusta Canal on December 5 to meet with staff from the heritage areas and Atlanta office in the Southeast region and then on December 9-10 visiting the Delta Region in Mississippi. The Delta region already has a Blues Highway organization and is interested in learning more about national heritage area designation. Many thanks to Luther Brown at Delta State for making the local arrangements and to Van West in bringing his expertise to the table.